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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1937.

T. L. WORMALD, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Population (estimated 1937) - -	8,878
Area of District in Acres - -	45,064

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Darlington Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my seventh annual report as Medical Officer of Health on the Vital Statistics and Sanitation of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of Rural District in Acres	45,064
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	8,878
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,602
Rateable Value	£48,304
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£201

The chief industries are, agriculture in general, iron smelting at Middleton-St.-George (these works are still idle), iron works at Dinsdale, lime burning at Ayeliffe, and sand and gravel quarrying at Bishopton.

In the review of County Districts, the following changes were made in the area of the Rural District :—

ADDED AREA.

Parish.	*Area—Acres.*	*Population.*
Bishopton	2,178	323
East and West Newbiggin	853	35
Great Stainton	1,258	85
Little Stainton	1,145	53
Middridge Grange (part of)	787	43
	6,221	539
DEDUCTED AREA.		
Redworth (part of)	671	200
NET ADDED AREA	5,550	339

The added area is typically rural in character.

The number of unemployed persons in the district at the end of 1937 was 90. This is an increase of 4 on last year's figures, but this increase may be due to added areas.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A scheme for the free immunization of children was inaugurated during the year. In response to urgent representations by the County Medical Officer that a scheme should be adopted in order to reduce the incidence of Diphtheria which in recent years had been very heavy in certain areas of the County, with the approval of this Council propaganda was instituted and with the co-operation of the Education Authorities attention paid primarily to children of school age. The response was gratifying, and it is satisfactory to record that during the year no case has been notified as having occurred in an immunised child.

Death Rate.

The death rate for the year is slightly below the rate for the district for last year but is slightly above the rate for England and Wales for the same year.

Birth Rate.

The birth rate is slightly below that for the district for last year and slightly below the rate for England and Wales for the same year.

Infantile Death Rate.

There is a big increase in the Infantile Death Rate being 29.98 above the previous year and 15.77 above England and Wales for the same year. It must be remembered however, that in a district with a small population and consequently few births, a huge difference in the rate is effected by two or three deaths, the average for the last three years being only 44.7.

To a very large extent also the increased Infantile Death Rate is due to the high incidence of premature births, in several instances twins.

In contrast to the high Infantile Mortality rate it is satisfactory to note that of the total number of 118 deaths 48 survived till the age group of " over 70 years " (40%), and of these 29 reached the " over 80 years " group (almost 25%).

Maternal Mortality.

I am again pleased to report that there has been an absence of deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or from any other cause associated with child-birth. This is the third year in succession that there have been no deaths from these causes.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever of which there were 39 cases, were evenly distributed throughout the district and were generally of a mild nature. Removal of these cases to hospital was only effected where nursing at home was not practicable or where there was any likely infection of food.

Diphtheria.

23 cases of diphtheria were notified during the year as against 27 cases last year. There were no cases among immunized children.

Influenza.

Seven deaths occurred from Influenza as against none last year, the mortality in almost every instance being due to respiratory or cardiac complications.

Tuberculosis.

Nine cases of Tuberculosis were notified. The following table gives the age periods at which the cases were notified and also the mortality rate from this disease :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3	4	1	1	1	1	—	—

Cancer.

Ten deaths occurred from Cancer as against 13 last year. None of the deaths resulted, so far as can be ascertained from any industrial conditions. No case of Cancer was detected among the tar workers in the district, where a bi-annual medical inspection of the employees is carried out.

Pneumonia.

Ten cases of Pneumonia were notified and 7 deaths occurred from Pneumonia.

For several years past the incidence of pneumonia has remined much the same and is evenly divided amongst the various parishes.

That at Middleton-St.-George has remained constant, in spite of the fact that the Smelting works have been idle for many years, thus proving that the latter industry when active does not in any way influence the incidence of this disease.

Infectious Diseases Notified :—

Tubersulosis—Pulmonary	7
,, Other Forms	2
Scarlet Fever	39
Diphtheria	23
Pneumonia, all forms	10
Erysipelas	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Poliomyelitis	—
	86

Age Groups at which Deaths occurred :—

Under 1 year	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5–10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-25 yrs.	25-30 yrs.	30-40 yrs.	40-50 yrs.	50-60 yrs.	60.70 yrs.	70-80 yrs.	Over 80 yrs.
9	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	3	10	36	19	29

PARISHES IN WHICH DEATHS OCCURRED :—

Arehdeaeon Newton	0
Ayeliffe	10
Barmtpon	2
Bishopton	2
Blaekwell	7
Brafferton	1
Burdon Great	2
Coatham Mundeville	2
Conisclifie, High	4
Coniseliffe, Low	1
Denton	3
Dinsdale, Low	0
Heighington	14
Houghton-le-Side	0
Hurworth	24
Middleton-St.-George	22
Neasham	5
Piercebridge	2
Redworth	1
Sadberge	7
Summerhouse	1
Whessoe	8
	118

The following statisties have been based on the Registrar-Generals estimated resident population of the district for the year 1937, viz. :—8,878 :—

		Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop. 1937	Comparison D.R.D.C. 1936	England and Wales 1937
Live Births	Legitimate	113	54	59			
	Illegitimate	9	3	6			
		122	57	65	13.74	15.71	14.90
Still Births	Legitimate	1	1	—			
	Illegitimate	—	—	—			
		1	1	—	.11	.45	.60
Total Live and Still Births....		123	58	65	13.85	16.16	15.50

Death Rate per 1,000 population :—

				Death Rate per 1,000 pop.		
Deaths	118	64	54	13.29	14.22	12.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

	D.R.D.C. 1937	D.R.D.C. 1936	England and Wales 1937
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil	.97
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil	2.26
	Nil	Nil	3.23

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	9	5	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	9	5	4

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :—

	D.R.D.C. 1937	D.R.D.C. 1936	England and Wales 1937
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	73.77	43.79	58
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	79.64	45.11	—
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	—	—	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—	—

TABLE SHEWING CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES :—

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	–	–
Measles	–	–
Scarlet Fever	–	–
Whooping Cough	–	–
Diphtheria	–	–
Influenza	3	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	–	–
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	–
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1
Other tuberculous diseases	–	–
Syphilis	–	–
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	–	–
Cancer, malignant disease	5	5
Diabetes	–	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	1	3
Heart Disease	17	19
Aneurysm	–	–
Other circulatory disease	13	2
Bronchitis	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	4
Other respiratory diseases	–	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	–	–
Appendicitis	1	–
Cirrhosis of Liver	–	–
Other diseases of liver, etc.	–	–
Other digestive diseases	1	–
Acute and chronic nephritis	3	3
Puerperal sepsis	–	–
Other puerperal causes	–	–
Congenital debility, premature births, malformations, etc.	2	3
Senility	1	3
Suicide	1	–
Other violence	3	–
Other defined diseases	6	3
Illdefined or not known	1	–
	64	54

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :—

Medical Officer of Health :—
T. L. Wormald, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :—W. J. Pallister, Cert. R. San. Inst.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :—A. T. Pallister, M.R. San. I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :—
R. E. Dunn, Cert. R. San. Inst.,
commenced 1st February, 1937.

Hospitals.

The Darlington Rural District Council has an agreement with the Darlington Corporation for the removal and maintenance of cases of infectious diseases in the Darlington Corporation Isolation Hospital. The accommodation was ample and all cases, where application was made, were taken by the hospital.

During the year the following cases were removed to hospital :—

Scarlet Fever	....	24 cases.
Diphtheria	....	21 cases.
Primary Pneumonia	....	1 case.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

To provide a water supply to the Villages of Redworth and Houghton-le-Side, the Council sunk a bore hole at Shackleton Wood, Redworth, 122 feet deep into the millstone grit when a test pumping yield of 30,000 gallons a day was obtained. This yield was governed by the capacity of the pump and by the shortness of time in which the water came back to its original rest level, there is no doubt the capacity of the bore hole greatly exceeds this yield of the test pumping.

An analysis of the water shows it to be of good and wholesome quality.

An analysis of the public and private well waters at Great Stainton Village showed that the supply to this Village was not of a wholesome quality, and the Council have given instructions for a borehole to be sunk.

To provide for the building development in Snack Gate Lane, Heighington, the Council extended their water main along this Lane.

The drought at the back end of last year greatly weakened the water supply from the bore hole at Ayeliffe, and notices were issued asking the consumers to conserve the water supply as much as possible.

The drought also lessened the supply of rain water on the storage butts at Heighington, when the draw upon the well greatly increased. Notices were also issued in this case asking the consumers to conserve the water and warning was given that the supply was only for domestic purposes.

Samples of water were taken from 3 private supplies, all of which were satisfactory.

In all other respects the supplies in general to the district were satisfactory and abundant.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Council have given instructions for the relaying of the sewer along Middleton-one-Row Village which, due to lack of fall and development, is inadequate. They have also given instructions for the preparation of plans for new sewage disposal works to meet the increased flow due to development.

As previously reported, the sewage disposal land at Hurworth Place is sewage sick and the Council contemplate the putting down of tanks and filter beds.

A scheme for sewage disposal is to be carried out on the Beaumont Hill Estate to take the place of cesspools, which, due to further development, are becoming a nuisance.

Strong complaints were made about the cesspools on the Merrybent Estate, but the development is of such a straggling nature that the cost of central works would be prohibitive.

The need for proper sewerage and sewage disposal is being felt at Brafferton where the Council have provided a piped supply of water.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year 24 ashpit privies and 3 pail closets were converted into water closets under section 39 of the Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1907, and 3 ash closets and 1 ashpit privy were converted into water closets under section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Under the 1936 Act the Council have resolved to pay £5 or half the cost, whichever is the less, to an owner who proposes to substitute a water closet for an ash closet or ashpit privy.

Eleven conversions to water carriage were carried out without the aid of a contribution from the Council.

The estimated number of each type in the district is as follows :—

Water Closets	....	1,058
Ash Closets	....	742
Ash-privies	....	722

Public Cleansing.

The number of parishes where public scavenging is in force is 17.

During the year public scavenging was put into force at Bishopton which is one of the parishes added to this district under the Review Order.

The work is carried out by direct labour.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY of work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1937.

	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks
1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				
Dwelling-houses & schools—				
Foul Conditions	1	—	1	
Structural Defects	27	3	28	
Overcrowding	1	—	1	
Lodging-houses	—	—	—	
Dairies and Milkshops	25	—	20	
Cowsheds	37	—	32	
Bakehouses	—	—	—	
Slaughter-houses	2	—	2	
Ashpits and Privies	—	—	—	
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	1	—	1	
Waterclosets	2	—	2	
Defective Yard Paving	—	—	—	
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps....	—	—	—	
No Disconnection from Sewers	—	—	—	
Other Faults	5	—	3	
Water Supply	15	—	7	
Pigsties	—	—	—	
Animals Improperly Kept	—	—	—	
Offensive Trades	1	—	1	
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	
Other Nuisances—				
Nuisance from Rats	1	—	1	
Nuisance from private Sewage Disposal Plant	1	—	1	
Totals	119	3	100	

	No.	Remarks.
II. Water, Food and Drugs.		
Samples of water taken for analysis	14	
Samples of water condemned as unfit for use	7	
Seizures of unwholesome food	4	Pig carcase—Clayton Lungs—Pneumonia 2 Pigs Heads—T.B.
Convictions for exposing or selling unwholesome food	—	
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	—	
Samples of food and drugs found adulterated	—	
III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.		
Lots of infectious bedding stoved or destroyed	—	
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	59	
Schools do. do.	—	
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	—	
Convictions for do. do.	—	
IV. General.		
Number of new houses erected during year	42	
Number of such houses occupied during year	39	
Ashpit-privies converted into ash-closets	1	
Do. do. water-closets	26	
Ash-closets do. do.	17	
Total number of water-closets in district	1058	Increase from district transferred.
Do. ash-closets do.	742	
Do. ash-pit privies do.	722	

Schools.

No schools were closed during the year on account of infectious disease.

During the year the ash closets at Heighington School were converted to water closets.

Every school in the district has a piped supply of wholesome water laid on.

The sanitary condition of the schools in the area is satisfactory.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	49
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	111
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	34
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	91
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	27
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	22

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	28

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 3

(b) By local authority in default of owners —

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners .... —

(b) By local authority in default of owners —

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 18

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .... —

(3) Number of dwelling-houses closed (not demolished) on an undertaking by the owner —

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .... —

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

A. (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	85
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	85
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	458
B.	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
C. (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	13
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	66
D.	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—
E.	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

HOUSING.

During the year an enquiry was held before an Inspector of the Ministry of Health in respect of a Clearance Order at Hurworth, comprising 10 houses and a Clearance Order at Hurworth Place comprising 8 houses.

Demolition Orders have been made in respect of 5 houses at Neasham.

Grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926 have been approved for 10 houses and 6 houses have been completed during the year.

The total number of houses reconditioned under this Act at the end of December was 72, and work is in progress on 4 houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

A bi-annual inspection has been made of all the dairies and cowsheds in the district and the following is a summary of the work carried out as the result of such visits :—

COWSHEDS.

New Cowsheds	3
New Floors	16
Ventilation and Lighting	14
Dirty Cattle	3
	36

DAIRIES.

New Milkhouses	9
Floors	4
Ventilation and Lighting	6
	19

The total number of "accredited" license holders is 47, an increase of 17 on last year's figure.

One producer is licenced to produce Tuberculin Tested milk. One retailer licence has been granted for "Pasteurized" milk and two retailer licences for "Accredited" milk.

Of the Bacteriological examinations made by outside authorities, 14 were unsatisfactory. After visits were made, further samples were taken in every case and proved satisfactory.

For the purpose of "Accredited" licences twelve samples were taken for bacteriological examination.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There were 3 licensed slaughter houses on the register, one of which has been granted during the year, and there are 7 registered slaughter houses.

These have been regularly inspected.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

There are 15 licensed slaughter-men on the register under the above Act.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

The number of factories, workshops and workplaces on the register is 64. This is an increase on last year's figure, partly due to the addition of parishes under the County of Durham Review Order, 1937.

These premises have been inspected, and those that have been found unclean have been brought up to the required standard.

I wish, in conclusion, to acknowledge the great assistance given at all times by the Surveyor, Mr. Pallister and his assistant Mr. A. T. Pallister, and also my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Council, and Mr. Thompson, the Clerk, for their co-operation and approval of suggestions made in endeavouring to maintain a satisfactory state of health in the District.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. L. WORMALD,

Medical Officer of Health.